

Docket No.: 122.1435

Serial No. 09/772,919

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 9, 16 and 17 in accordance with the following:

1. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A system operating a plurality of information apparatuses, comprising:

a measuring unit measuring operating time of each of a plurality of information apparatuses:

a determining unit determining rotation candidates, among said plurality of information apparatuses, based on accumulated operating times of said respective information apparatuses with a view to equalizing the accumulated operating times of said respective information apparatuses and sending information apparatuses rotation messages to said rotation candidates;

a backup unit backup processing data stored in said rotation candidate information apparatuses in accordance with said rotation messages; and

a downloading unit for downloading said data associated with one of said rotation candidate information apparatuses on another of said rotation candidate information apparatuses after the rotation between said one of said rotation candidate information apparatuses and said another of said rotation candidate information apparatuses one has been completed.

2. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The system operating a plurality of information apparatuses as set forth in Claim 1, wherein said measuring unit measures the operating time of each of said information apparatuses which have replied to operating time confirming messages, sent thereto by said measuring unit, and holds a respective, accumulated operating time for each of said information apparatuses.

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3. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The system operating a plurality of information apparatuses as set forth in Claim 1, further comprising:

a display unit displaying said rotation messages on said respective rotation candidate information apparatuses; and

a backup unit performing a backup process by transferring, in accordance with said displayed rotation message, said data stored in said one of said rotation candidate information apparatuses from said, one of said rotation candidate information apparatuses to another location.

4. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An administrative unit for managing a plurality of information apparatuses comprising:

a memory having backup areas where stored data, stored in said respective information apparatuses, can be stored separately for each of said information apparatuses;

an operating time measuring unit measuring respective, accumulated operating times for said plurality of information apparatuses; and

a control unit determining rotation candidates, among said plurality of information apparatuses, with a view to equalizing the respective, accumulated operating times of said plurality of information apparatuses, directing said rotation candidate information apparatuses to perform a backup process of said stored data and further directing said respective information apparatuses to resume the operation thereof after the rotation of said rotation candidate information apparatuses has been completed.

5. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An administrative unit as set forth in Claim 4, wherein said operating time measuring unit confirms the receipt of replies to messages sent to said respective information apparatuses and then starts to measure the operating times of said respective information apparatuses.

6. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An administrative unit as set forth in Claim 4, wherein said control unit sends information apparatuses rotation messages to said rotation candidate information apparatuses, when said rotation candidate information apparatuses are determined, and directs said rotation candidate information apparatuses to display said messages.

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7. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An administrative unit managing a plurality of information apparatuses, comprising:

a measuring unit measuring operating time of each of said plurality of information apparatuses; and

a determining unit for determining rotation candidates among said plurality of information apparatuses, based on respective accumulated operating times of said plurality of information apparatuses, with a view to equalizing the accumulated operating times of said respective information apparatuses and notifying said rotation candidate information apparatuses to that effect.

8. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An information apparatus adapted to be connected to an administrative unit, comprising:

a memory storing whole data relevant to operating environments associated with said information apparatus;

a display unit displaying an information apparatus rotation message from said administrative unit;

an input unit operating said information apparatus in accordance with a direction of said displayed rotation message; and

a controller unit executing a backup process of said data stored in said memory on said administrative unit by performing a rotation operation in accordance with a direction of said message.

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The information apparatus as set forth in Claim 8, wherein after having executed said backup process of said data stored in said memory on said administrative unit, said controller unit downloads whole data contents, relevant to operating environments associated with another information apparatus which is backed up in said administrative unit on said memory.

10. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The information apparatus as set forth in Claim 8, wherein said control unit sends a reply message, indicating that said information apparatus is in operation, when said control means receives an operation confirming message.

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11. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An information apparatuses control method, comprising:

during a predetermined operation period for a plurality of information apparatuses, determining rotation candidate information apparatuses among said plurality of information apparatuses based on accumulated operating times of said respective information apparatuses with a view to equalizing the accumulated operating times of said respective information apparatuses;

performing a backup process of data associated with said rotation candidate information apparatuses; and

performing a download process of said data associated with one of said rotation candidate information apparatuses on another of said rotation candidate information apparatuses after the rotation between said one of said rotation candidate information apparatuses and said another of said rotation candidate information apparatuses has been completed.

12. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A information apparatus control method, comprising:

when receiving replies from a plurality of information apparatus to operation confirming messages sent thereto, measuring operating time of each of said information apparatus from which said replies have been received and holding accumulated operating times of said respective information apparatuses;

determining rotation candidate information apparatuses among said plurality of information apparatuses based on the accumulated operating times with a view to equalizing the accumulated operating times of said respective information apparatuses;

sending information apparatuses rotation messages to said rotation candidate information apparatuses;

backup processing stored data of said rotation candidate information apparatuses in accordance with said messages;

downloading said data associated with one of said rotation candidate information apparatuses on another of said rotation candidate information apparatuses after the rotation between said one of said rotation candidate information apparatuses and said another of said rotation candidate information apparatuses has been completed; and

resuming the operation of said respective information apparatuses after the rotation among all said rotation candidate information apparatuses has been completed.

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13. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A information apparatus control method as set forth in Claim 12, further comprising:

when information apparatuses rotation messages are sent to said rotation candidate information apparatuses, displaying said rotation messages on said rotation candidate information apparatuses; and

performing in accordance with said displayed message a backup process by transferring said stored data of said rotation candidate information apparatuses from said rotation candidate information apparatuses to another location.

14. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A computer readable recording medium having recorded therein a program for managing a plurality of information apparatuses by:

measuring respective operating times of each of said plurality of information apparatuses;

determining rotation candidate information apparatuses among said plurality of information apparatuses based on respective accumulated operating times of said plurality of information apparatuses with a view to equalizing the accumulated times of said respective information apparatuses; and

notifying said rotation candidate information apparatuses to that effect.

15. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A computer readable recording medium as set forth in Claim 14, having recorded therein further a program :

storing data transferred from said rotation candidate information apparatuses in response to said notice; and

transferring said stored data to said rotation candidate information apparatuses accordingly.

16. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer readable recording medium having recorded therein a program:

receiving a computer rotation message from said administrative unit; and

performing a backup process of whole ~~data contents~~ relevant to operating environments stored in said computer onto said administrative unit through rotating operation in accordance with a direction of said message.

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17. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer readable recording medium as set forth in Claim 16, having recorded therein further a program:

downloading whole ~~data~~ contents relevant to operating environments associated with another computer from said administrative unit for storage after having performed said backup process.